

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT H.D.S. GREENWAY BY-LINER WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 10 "SHIFT ON ISRAEL POSSIBLE, PLO CONFIRMS."

2. BEIRUT, AUGUST 9--A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PALESTINE
LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TODAY AFFIRMED THAT THE PLO
MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION
242, THE BASIS UPON WHICH A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFER-
ENCE COULD BE HELD, IF THE WORDING OF THE RESOLUTION
WERE CHANGED TO INCLUDE ,THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIANS."

3. PLO SPOKESMAN MAHMOUD LABADI CATEGORIZED AS "UNTRUE,
AN EARLIER REPORT THAT THE PLO DENIED ANY WILLINGNESS
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WHATSOEVER TO CHANGE ITS STAND ON RESOLUTION 242. BUT
HE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW TODAY THAT IT WOULD BE UP TO THE
U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL TO MAKE THE NECESSARY AMENDMENT
BEFORE THE PLO COULD DECIDE.

4. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PLO WOULD REGARD ACCEPTANCE
OF RESOLUTION 242 AS A BASIS FOR ATTENDING A GENEVA

CONFERENCE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN AS A

FORMAL RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. HOWEVER, IF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WERE TO INTERPRET A PLO ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 242 AS A DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, "LET THEM SAY IT," HE SAID. THE POLICY OF SEEKING TO AMEND RESOLUTION 242 WAS NOT NEW, LABADI SAID.

5. "WE DON'T WANT TO BE AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE. WE WANT TO BE FLEXIBLE BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS TO OUR HOMELAND. WE CANNOT GO TO GENEVA SHOWING ALL OUR CARDS. FOR US FINAL RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL CAN ONLY COME OUT OF A SERIES OF VERY LONG AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS," LABADI SAID.

6. YESTERDAY BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER AND A SPOKESMAN FOR SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE PLO WOULD BE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE RESOLUTION 242 IF THE RESOLUTION COULD BE CHANGED TO INCLUDE THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS.

7. RESOLUTION 242, PASSED IN NOVEMBER OF 1967, CALLS FOR AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, PEACE WITHIN RECOGNIZED AND SECURE BORDERS FOR ALL THE STATES IN THE REGION AND A JUST SOLUTION FOR PALESTINIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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REFUGEES.

8. BOTH CARTER AND VANCE INDICATED THAT A PLO ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 242 COULD BE CONSIDERED TANTAMOUNT TO A DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. THIS IS VIEWED HERE AS A SHIFT IN AMERICAN POLICY BECAUSE VANCE SAID IN FEBRUARY THAT ONLY A CHANGE IN THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT WOULD SUFFICE TO MAKE THE PLO ELIGIBLE AS A NEGOTIATING PARTNER. WHEN THE PLO NATIONAL COUNCIL MET IN CAIRO THE FOLLOWING MONTH, HOWEVER, IT DID NOT CHANGE THE COVENANT OR SOFTEN THE PLO'S STAND ON NOT RECOGNIZING ISRAEL.

9. THE ATTEMPT TO GET THE PALESTINIANS TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 242 IN ORDER TO BRING THE PALESTINIANS TO GENEVA IS SEEN HERE AS AN ATTEMPT TO GET AROUND THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT WHICH, IN EFFECT, CALLS FOR THE END OF THE JEWISH STATE.

10. IN ANY CASE, ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER MENAHEM BEGIN HAS ALREADY SAID HE WOULD VETO ANY ATTEMPT TO BRING THE PLO TO GENEVA NO MATTER WHAT IT DECIDED TO DO ABOUT

RESOLUTION 242. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO ALTER THE WORDING OF RESOLUTION 242.

11. PLO SPOKESMAN LABADI CALLED YESTERDAY'S DEVELOPMENT A "TRIAL BALLOON; THAT THE AMERICANS SENT UP TO TEST THE REACTION FROM ALL SIDES.

12. IT IS UNDERSTAND THAT PLO CHIEF YASSER ARAFAT DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF RECOGNIZING RESOLUTION 242 IN EXCHANGE FOR A CHANGE IN THE 'ORDING WITH BOTH THE SAUDI ARABIANS AND THE EGYPTIANS LAST WEEK. IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT HE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE AS WELL. CHRISTOPHER UNCLASSIFIED

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